



FORT WASHINGTON STRATEGIC INCOME – 3Q2024

- ▶ Flexible investment approach with diversified sources of return
- ▶ Premium yield with high quality bias
- ▶ High conviction security selection with rigorous bottom-up research
- ▶ Lead managers in place since inception

PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

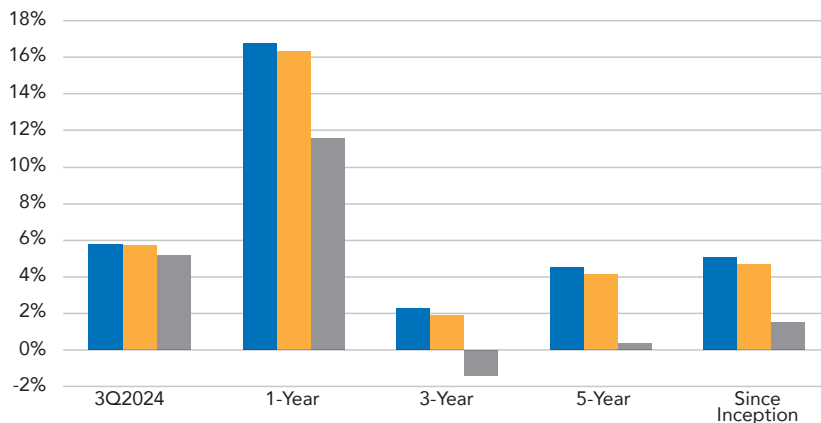
The Strategic Income strategy returned 5.79% gross and 5.69% net for the quarter, outperforming the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index which returned 5.20%.

The strategy's sector allocation was the largest contributor to outperformance over the quarter. The allocation to high yield corporates and non-credit sectors were the primary drivers as risk assets performed well over the quarter, supported by improving growth expectations and easing inflation.

Security selection was a positive contributor to relative outperformance due to selection within high yield corporate and emerging market debt (EMD) sectors. Outperforming positions within telecommunications were the primary driver of relative performance within high yield corporates. Within EMD, high conviction positions across Europe and the Middle East were the largest drivers of positive performance. As spreads remain near historically tight levels, we anticipate security selection to be a key driver of positive relative performance going forward.

Interest rate positioning also added to relative performance despite the portfolio averaging 1.5 years shorter duration than the benchmark during the quarter as rates declined meaningfully. The main driver of relative performance was the strategy's positioning for a steeper curve, which benefited the portfolio as short and intermediate rates declined more significantly than longer rates. Additionally, the negative impact of being short duration compared to the benchmark was reduced as the team tactically adjusted duration between 4.0 – 5.5 years as rates experienced volatility over the quarter. While the strategy began and ended the quarter with no Treasury TIPS exposure, the team opportunistically utilized them as investor inflation expectations shifted, which was also a positive contributor to relative performance.

Annualized Total Returns as of September 30, 2024



	3Q2024	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Strategic Income (Gross)	5.79	16.76	2.26	4.49	5.05
Strategic Income (Net)	5.69	16.34	1.90	4.11	4.66
Bloomberg US Aggregate	5.20	11.57	-1.39	0.33	1.54

Source: Fort Washington. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This supplemental information complements the Strategic Income GIPS Report. Inception date: 07/01/2017.

Inception Date: 07/01/2017
 Total Strategy Assets: \$1.2 billion
 Total Fixed Income Assets: \$60.3 billion
 Style: Multi-Sector Bond, Income

Flexibility

Max 50% Non-Investment Grade

Premium Yield

5.6% Yield
 A2/A3 Average Credit Quality

Diversified Returns

0.73 correlation to the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index since inception*

High Conviction

125 - 175 issuers

Experienced Team

35 Investment Professionals
 Lead PMs Average:
 26 Years Industry Experience
 21 Years With the Firm

*Source: Fort Washington, Nasdaq eVestment. Strategy Inception date is 07/01/2017.

PEER GROUP PERFORMANCE

	Percentile Rank ¹
3Q2024	13
1 Year	12
3 Years	23
5 Years	14
Since Inception	13

Source: Nasdaq eVestment
¹Peer ranks are percentile rankings versus the eVestment U.S. Multi-Sector Fixed Income Universe based on net performance relative to peer group. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

POSITIONING

Risk budget: The strategy is targeting a modest overweight to risk representing 30% of the risk budget.

Economic activity has been robust over the last year despite expectations for slowing growth. Inflation remains above the Federal Reserve's ("the Fed") 2% target but continues to decline. As a result of disinflation and a cooling labor market, the Fed cut interest rates by 50 basis points in September. Although this decision eased financial conditions and improved the odds of a soft landing, the fed funds rate is still expected to remain in restrictive territory for some time. As a result, U.S. economic resilience could be tested if headwinds currently affecting lower income households broaden.

Valuations generally reflect a high probability of a soft/no landing with limited margin of safety. Despite our improved economic outlook, elevated asset prices result in only a modest overweight risk posture within the strategy.

Sectors: Sector positioning reflects generally expensive valuations, relative value, and opportunities within each sector. Allocations were adjusted marginally in the quarter and primary risk exposures include:

- ▶ Exposure to Investment Grade Credit was increased marginally over the quarter. The sector continues to favor positions lower in the capital structure within high quality financials and is selectively adding to bottom-up opportunities on attractive relative value, including targeting investments in more esoteric front-end bonds to enhance yield.
- ▶ The allocation to Securitized Products was unchanged over the quarter. The team continues to favor non-agency exposure and is overweight ABS, CLO, and CMBS.
- ▶ The team maintained its exposure to Emerging Markets Debt which is toward the lower end of the strategy's historical range. The sector is primarily invested in attractive bottom-up narratives within the below-investment grade segment. Latin America remains the largest exposure within the sector.
- ▶ High Yield exposure remained largely unchanged during the quarter. High Yield exposure is at the lower end of its historical range as risk/reward is skewed to the downside. The High Yield allocation is broadly diversified by sector, favoring higher quality BBs, as the team waits for an opportunity to add risk at more attractive spreads.

Rates: Duration was reduced during the quarter from 5.0 to 4.3 years and averaged around a 4.7 year duration over the quarter. We are positioning portfolios within the current range of 4.0 to 4.5 years and favor the intermediate part of the curve. The yield curve steepened meaningfully during Q3 as investors began pricing in quicker rate cuts. As a result, the strategy's steepening bias was reduced. We believe longer rates are now more fairly valued but expect to see volatility over the coming quarters.

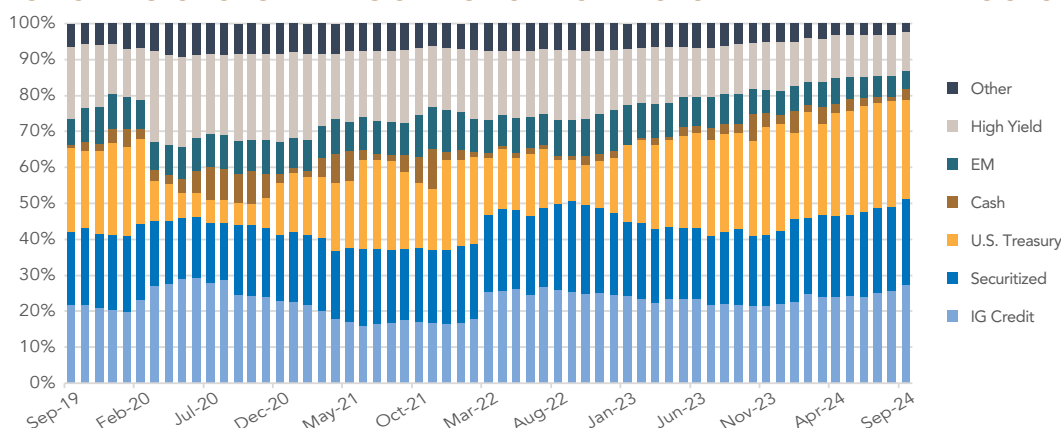
Portfolio Characteristics (As of 09/30/2024)	
Weighted Average Yield to Worst	5.6%
Effective Duration (years)	4.2
Total Strategy Assets	\$1.2 B

Credit Quality (% of Fixed Income)	
AAA	5%
AA	33%
A	6%
BBB	33%
BB	9%
B	7%
CCC and Below	1%
NR/Other	3%
Cash	3%

Sector Allocation	Current	3 Year Average	3 Year High	3 Year Low
Investment Grade Corp	27%	23%	27%	17%
High Yield Corp	11%	15%	19%	11%
U.S. Treasuries	28%	23%	30%	11%
Securitized	24%	22%	25%	19%
ABS	5%	6%	9%	3%
CLO	4%	6%	8%	2%
CMBS	6%	6%	8%	4%
RMBS	4%	3%	4%	0%
Emerging Markets Debt	5%	9%	12%	5%
Other	2%	6%	8%	2%
Cash	3%	3%	11%	0%

Source: Fort Washington and Bloomberg PORT. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Portfolio characteristics subject to change at any time without notice. This supplemental information complements the Strategic Income GIPS Report.

FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO SECTOR ALLOCATIONS INCREASES ALPHA AND REDUCES RISK



Source: Fort Washington. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Portfolio characteristics subject to change at any time without notice. Inception date is 07/01/2017. This supplemental information complements the Strategic Income GIPS Report.

MARKET OVERVIEW

The economy has continued to grow at a robust pace and the base case for investors remains a soft landing, especially now that the Fed has begun normalizing interest rates. A balanced labor market along with wage gains and large increases in net worth have supported consumer spending. However, employment has cooled and markets are worried the economy is not creating as many new jobs. Consequently, the Fed has shifted focus to this part of the economic environment, which was a contributor to their decision to cut fed funds by 50 basis points in September.

In addition, continued disinflation and 'greater confidence' that it will return to the 2% target provided the Fed further data needed to begin cutting. The main area investors will be monitoring is the service side of inflation, which has remained elevated, largely because of shelter. Nevertheless, with inflation seemingly under control the emphasis is being placed on the labor market as Powell has mentioned that the FOMC does not want to see 'further weakening' in employment. While non-farm payrolls show continued job growth, it has trended lower over the last couple quarters, and reports over the past year (ending March 2024) were revised down significantly.

For these reasons, the FOMC believes the downside risk for the labor market now outweighs inflation surprises. The unemployment rate has increased 0.7%, to 4.1%, since the low's in 2023 as people have lost their jobs and others have re-entered the labor market. However, the number of people losing their jobs has remained relatively low and continued Fed cuts should strengthen more rate sensitive sectors of the economy. Separately, upward revisions to the BEA's national accounts, including personal income and Gross Domestic Income (GDI), show that the average consumer is better off than previously expected.

This economic backdrop combined with the Fed's willingness to act more aggressively than previously anticipated increases the odds that the U.S. will avert a recession and has been a catalyst for rising asset prices. Lower inflation forecasts and expectations of rate cuts were a driver of meaningfully lower rates over the quarter, thus easing financial conditions. Treasury yields declined with the 10-year moving lower by 60 basis points over the quarter, ending around 3.8%. Additionally, the Treasury yield curve reversed the inversion it has exhibited for much of the last two years. In aggregate these rate moves resulted in a very strong quarter for the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index, which returned 5.20%.

The strategy is positioned to perform well in a stable to improving environment for risk assets. We believe a modest overweight to credit sectors is prudent as valuations are tight of historical medians, limiting potential upside. However, the current economic environment should support tighter spreads and if they persist, the strategy is positioned to benefit from additional yield relative to the benchmark. However, if economic growth slows materially, the strategy is also in a position to add exposure opportunistically as risk assets would likely experience weakness. Additionally, we believe positive security selection can benefit the portfolio in many different market environments and tactical duration management allows the strategy to take advantage of elevated rate volatility.

WHAT DIFFERENTIATES STRATEGIC INCOME?

Premium Yield. Strategic Income has a yield well above the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index as well as traditional fixed income strategies.²

High Conviction Security Selection. Bottom-up security selection in fixed income has proven to be a reliable source of alpha. Strategic Income is a portfolio of 125 – 175 issuers, focusing on the best ideas of our investment teams.

Sector Diversification. Non-traditional fixed income strategies often have large concentrations in a single sector, such as high yield or preferred securities. Strategic Income is broadly diversified by sector, resulting in multiple sources of return potential.

Duration Management. Unconstrained fixed income strategies take large, and sometimes negative, duration positions. Strategic Income uses duration as a risk mitigation tool, and seeks to avoid taking large duration positions due to the difficulty in predicting interest rates.

Quality Bias. Strategic Income has a top quintile yield without taking excessive risks. The average credit quality of the holdings in the strategy is Investment Grade rated, while the average credit quality of most portfolios in the peer group is rated as High Yield.

WHY INVEST IN THE STRATEGY?

Flexibility. Having the flexibility to react to market dislocations in a timely manner can be a benefit of non-traditional fixed income approaches such as Strategic Income.

Enhanced Return. Multi-Sector bond strategies have outperformed traditional strategies over the past 1, 3, 5, and 10 year periods² with only a moderate increase in risk.

Higher Yield. For investors looking for increased yield, Strategic Income, on average, is likely to provide a yield in excess of the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index by 2%,³ higher than most traditional strategies.

Expanded Opportunity Set. Traditional strategies are largely invested in sectors and securities that are represented in common market indices. Strategic Income goes beyond common market indices into areas that may be less trafficked, providing more opportunities for alpha.

Portfolio Diversification. Traditional strategies are often invested in the major index sectors of Investment Grade Corporates, Securitized, and Government Securities. Strategic Income provides dedicated exposure to diversifying fixed income asset classes with low correlation to traditional fixed income strategies.

² Source: eVestment US Multi-Sector Fixed Income Universe and eVestment US Core Plus Fixed Income Universe as of 09/30/2024

³ Source: Bloomberg, Fort Washington

COMPOSITE GIPS REPORT

	3Q2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017 ¹
Strategic Income (Gross)	5.79%	8.64%	-9.86%	3.24%	10.72%	12.84%	0.49%	3.10%
Strategic Income (Net)	5.69%	8.24%	-10.17%	2.84%	10.28%	12.46%	0.09%	2.90%
Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index	5.20%	5.53%	-13.01%	-1.54%	7.51%	8.72%	0.01%	1.24%
Strategic Income 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation ²	--	6.96%	8.41%	6.68%	6.87%	--	--	--
Bloomberg Aggregate 3-Year Annual Standard Deviation ²	--	7.14%	5.77%	3.35%	3.36%	--	--	--
Dispersion ³	0.26%	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Number of Accounts	6	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Composite Assets (\$ millions) ⁴	\$1,251.0	\$879.5	\$604.8	\$1,060.4	\$385.6	\$285.5	\$57.5	\$51.1
Total Firm Assets (\$ millions)	\$81,043	\$74,613	\$66,365	\$73,804	\$65,086	\$59,174	\$49,225	\$52,774

Composite inception and creation date: 07/01/2017. ¹2017 returns are partial-year returns, reflecting the composite inception date of 07/01/2017. ²The 3-Year annualized ex-post standard deviation is calculated using monthly gross-of-fee returns to measure the average deviations of returns from its mean. ³Dispersion is not calculated for years in which the composite contains five portfolios or less. Dispersion is calculated as the equal weighted standard deviation of quarterly gross-of-fee returns for those portfolios held in the composite during the full measurement period. Past performance is not indicative of future results. ⁴The change in composite assets from 2021 to 2022 was the result of two accounts dropping below the \$100 million strategy minimum. The accounts continued to be managed in the style of the Strategic Income strategy and were returned to the composite in 2023 when their asset values once again exceeded the minimum threshold. The benchmark for this composite is the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index. The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is a market capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, taxable bond market. The index includes investment grade securities such as U.S. Treasuries, government-related and corporate bonds, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and commercial mortgage-backed securities. The index accounts for interest payments by incorporating them into the total return calculation. The Strategic Income strategy employs a high conviction, yield oriented investment approach coupled with sector diversification and diligent risk management resulting in attractive risk adjusted returns via high levels of income. The primary objective of Strategic Income is to produce a high level of current income with a secondary objective of capital appreciation. The strategy will invest in public fixed income, private fixed income, common stock and derivatives. The strategy will incorporate the best investment ideas available to Fort Washington, exploiting Fort Washington's core competencies of bottom-up credit and structure analysis. Risk monitoring, performance measurement, and active management is a key component to achieving attractive risk adjusted returns. All fee-paying, fully discretionary portfolios, managed in the Strategic Income style, with a minimum of \$100 million under our management, are included in this composite. Effective 10/26/2018, the Strategic Income fee is 0.40% for separate accounts. Portfolios in this composite include cash, cash equivalents, investment securities, interest and dividends. Cash is maintained, within each separately managed account segment, in accordance with our asset allocation ratio. The U.S. dollar is the base currency. The specific securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended. Returns are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by investment advisory fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net of fee performance was calculated using the actual management fees charged. Individual portfolio returns are calculated on a daily valuation basis. Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc. (Fort Washington), a wholly owned subsidiary of The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, is a registered investment advisor and provides discretionary money management to a broad range of investors, including both institutional and individual investors. Assets under management include all portfolios managed by Fort Washington and exclude assets managed by and marketed as its Private Equity business unit. 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RISK DISCLOSURES

The Strategic Income strategy invests in fixed-income securities which can experience reduced liquidity during certain market events, lose their value as interest rates rise and are subject to credit risk which is the risk of deterioration in the financial condition of an issuer and/or general economic conditions that can cause the issuer to not make timely payments of principal and interest also causing the securities to decline in value and an investor can lose principal. The strategy invests in non-investment grade debt securities which are considered speculative with respect to the issuers' ability to make timely payments of interest and principal, may lack liquidity and has had more frequent and larger price changes than other debt securities. The strategy invests in mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities which are subject to the risks of prepayment, defaults, changing interest rates and at times, the financial condition of the issuer. The strategy invests in equities which are subject to market volatility and loss. The strategy invests in preferred stocks which are relegated below bonds for payment should the issuer be liquidated. The strategy invests in foreign securities which carry the associated risks of economic and political instability, market liquidity, currency volatility and accounting standards that differ from those of U.S. markets and may offer less protection to investors. The strategy invests in derivatives such as futures contracts. Derivatives can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, subject to counterparty and leverage risks and there is risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the strategy will not correlate with the strategy's other investments. The strategy invests in mortgage dollar rolls which involve increased risk and volatility, as the securities the strategy is required to repurchase may be worth less than the securities that the strategy originally held.

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